With the goal of providing Bank staff with effective tools that contribute to a better understanding of the Access to Information Policy and its application, the Access to Information Section of the Office of the Secretary (SEC/ATI) continued to offer training workshops in 2015. During the year, efforts focused on workshops targeted to Policy Publishers entitled “Mastering the classification and publication of documents on the Internet,” which included two Webex sessions for the Country Offices (COFs). This activity involved 14 events for 250 staff. In addition, sessions were held during 2015 for new Bank employees and interns, specialized sessions for different Departments and/or Units, and face-to-face workshops for staff from the COFs in Mexico, Honduras, Barbados, and Chile.
New look for the Access to Information Website

As part of the work of the External Relations Office (EXR) to develop a digital strategy to launch the IDB’s new website, changes were made to the Access to Information web page to reflect that strategy. The changes included redesigning the site with the goal of maximizing access to basic information according to the changes on the institutional level. The efforts focused on further facilitating access to documents being published in real time, thereby providing users with access to all recently-disclosed public documents.

SEC/ATI participated in the new corporate identity campaign

In line with the changes to its website, SEC/ATI took part in the campaign to launch the Bank’s new corporate identity, transmitting a message and image of the section that circulated on the Go Digital screens. The message for the campaign focused on the shift in emphasis adopted by the new Policy. The Bank now seeks to maximize access to all documents it produces or receives, governed by a new standard for the disclosure of information.
Departmental Classification Instructions (version 5)

The Access to Information Committee (AIC) approved the Departmental Classification Instructions in March 2013, and since then, the document has been continually updated, with the fifth version issued in June 2015. During 2016, updating efforts will be marked by a thorough review of documents classified as confidential to verify that their nondisclosure under this classification is in keeping with the Policy.

Departmental workshops on the Access to Information Policy with the Office of the Executive Auditor and the Legal Department

SEC/ATI held several departmental training sessions during the first half of 2015. Two well-attended events with active staff participation stand out. On 11 June, a workshop was held with the Office of the Executive Auditor (AUG) attended by 25 people including the IDB’s Executive Auditor. On 30 July, a workshop was held with the Legal Department (LEG) attended by 40 people. We thank both departments for their commitment.
**Star Focal Point: Alyson Williams**

In each newsletter, SEC/ATI recognizes a Focal Point who has made a special effort to promote the Policy in their Department or support its implementation in the Bank. In this issue, we salute Alyson Williams of KNL for her active participation in all the training sessions for Access to Information Publishers on “Mastering the Classification and Publication of Documents on the Internet” that were held during 2015. Alyson explained the publication process of the Bank Repository of Institutional Knowledge (BRIK) and how it is being integrated with the document disclosure flow under the Policy. We are grateful to Alyson for her commitment to this important agenda and wish her well in her new activities outside the Bank in the coming year.

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**2014 Annual Report**

On 7 July 2015, SEC/ATI and EXR presented their annual report to the Board of Executive Directors, which included the most important Policy implementation activities during 2014. The report was divided into six areas: governance, tools for better application of the Policy, requests for information, website as a tool for greater disclosure, information disclosure, and dissemination of the Policy. This information can be downloaded at [www.iadb.org/access](http://www.iadb.org/access) and printed copies of the report can be obtained from the SEC/ATI office at NE-1281. We commend and thank Joe Garcia’s team (ACP/TSG) for its invaluable contribution to designing the report and for the last two reports they produced for Access to Information.

In relation to the annual report and its functions of overseeing the Policy, in June 2015, the Access to Information Committee (AIC) held a face-to-face meeting to learn about the progress made during 2014 in implementing the Policy and the actions to be undertaken by Management in 2015.
The IDB marks International Right to Know Day

International Right to Know Day was held for the first time in the IDB. The celebration took place on 28 September and included various internal activities that were enthusiastically supported by staff at Headquarters. Two of the most outstanding events were the “Profiles Campaign” to disseminate messages related to the celebration and the importance to the Bank of promoting access to information about its activities, and the “lightning talks” event with eight speakers from different organizations who shared the experiences and work carried out daily by their institutions in the fields of access to information, transparency, and accountability (Sunlight Foundation, Disaster Accountability Project, Brookings Institution, Organization of American States (OAS), Washington Post, Open Society Justice Initiative). This last activity was very well attended by Bank staff thanks to its dynamic format. The day’s celebration also included a panel discussion on “What Does the Right to Know Mean Today?” which was an occasion for sharing thoughts, trends, and good practices relating to the implications and meaning of access to information and accountability, particularly from the standpoint of international development institutions. The panel was moderated by Cynthia J. Arnson of the Woodrow Wilson Center and included Mariana Mas of the Open Society Justice Initiative, Toby McIntosh of the Freedom of Information Advocates Network (FOIAnet), and Jonathan Fox from American University. Luis Giorgio, Chief of Staff of the Office of the Presidency and Chair of the Access to Information Committee, provided the opening remarks. Lastly, with the aim of sharing this celebration with the IDB’s external audience, SEC/ATI published a BlogPost on the right to know.
Un blog del BID para aprender sobre “Open Knowledge” en América Latina y el Caribe

3 HERRAMIENTAS PARA GARANTIZAR EL DERECHO DE ACCESO A LA INFORMACIÓN

PUBLICADO POR: AUTOR INVITADO / TAGS: OPENACCESS, OPENKNOWLEDGE, DATOS ABIERTOS

Por Marcelo Cerna, Jefe de la Sección de Acceso a la Información en la Secretaría del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID)

El próximo 28 de septiembre se conmemora el Día Internacional del Derecho a Saber o también conocido como Día Internacional del Acceso a la Información. El fenómeno del “derecho a saber” se ha transformado en un elemento fundamental de toda sociedad democrática. Con más de 100 leyes de acceso a la información a nivel mundial ya podemos habla de un derecho fundamental no sólo inherente a la democracia. Con esta base, la semana de acceso...
Access to Information continues to promote the Policy among Civil Society Organizations

Promoting use of the Policy by civil society organizations is an important, ongoing activity in the implementation process. Carrying on with the work done in the previous year, in 2015, SEC/ATI continued to offer training activities for different organizations, a task that was coordinated through the liaisons in each of the Bank’s Country Offices. Two workshops were held this year which covered some 20 organizations that are civil society consultative groups (ConSocs) in Jamaica and Honduras. In addition, as part of the Fifteenth IDB-Civil Society Meeting held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras on 5 November, Access to Information participated in the panel “Open Data: A Tool for Civil Society” whose objective was to consider the opportunities and challenges that open data and technology pose for civil society organizations, and to share tools that those organizations can use to maximize the value of their projects. Within that annual meeting, SEC/ATI participated in the mini-fair held to promote the Policy, offering materials to the participating organizations.

The members of the External Review Panel visited Headquarters

Ximena Abogabir, Toby Mendel, and Mauricio Merino, members of the Access to Information Policy External Review Panel, visited Headquarters on 16 and 17 November to learn about the current status of Policy implementation and the updating of the Bank’s procedures and policies. The Panel had the opportunity to meet with some internal Policy collaborators, particularly at a session with colleagues from the Records Management Section, who gave a presentation on the new document management system that the Bank will soon be implementing. They also met with colleagues from the Knowledge and Learning Sector (KNL) to learn about the steps the IDB is taking in the field of Open Data, with a view to sharing information with its external stakeholders and promoting development in our region through the use of its data. The Panel also met with President Moreno and Germán Quintana, the Bank’s Secretary.
The IDB hosted a panel on “Transparency in Chile: Progress, Experience, and Future Challenges”

On 28 April 2015, a discussion panel was held on “Transparency in Chile: Progress, Experience, and Future Challenges.” The event was organized by SEC and attended by colleagues from various Departments. The panel was moderated by Marcelo Cerna, Chief of the Access to Information Section (SEC/ATI), and the panelists were Senator Hernán Larraín, who presented Chile’s experience with transparency since the Transparency and Access to Information Act was adopted in 2008; Congressman Patricio Vallespín, who offered an overview of progress in the area of parliamentary transparency, the most recent reforms promoted in the Chilean Congress, and the challenges it faces in this field; and Carlos Santiso, Chief of the IDB’s Institutional Capacity of the State Division, who talked about Bank’s support for improving transparency in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Chilean parliamentary delegation, whose members are involved with aspects of transparency (specifically parliamentary integrity and transparency), was visiting Washington to hold meetings with various stakeholders interested in parliamentary openness, under the framework of the Open Government Partnership (OGP). In addition to visiting the IDB, the delegation held working meetings with the Organization of American States (OAS), the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the United States Congress, the United States Library of Congress, and the World Bank’s Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean.